



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The United States – Indonesia Society

MAY 2017 – MAY 2018

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Gala Dinners

USINDO 2018 Washington Gala Dinner

April 18, 2018 at the Four Seasons Hotel

Indonesian Guest of Honor and Featured Speaker:

H.E. Luhut Pandjaitan

Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs
Republic of Indonesia

Indonesian Special Guest Speaker:

H.E. Sri Mulyani

Minister of Finance
Republic of Indonesia

U.S. Guest of Honor:

The Honorable Ted Yoho

Chairman

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
House Foreign Affairs Committee

Senior U.S. Executive Branch Speaker

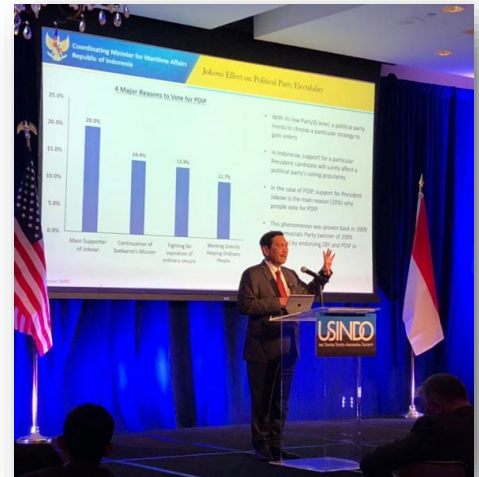
The Honorable John C. Rood

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

U.S. Special Guest

The Honorable Brian McFeeters

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of
Economic and Business Affairs



Voyage to Indonesia 2018 - Washington D.C. Dinner Hosted by Government of Indonesia

October 11, 2017 at the Fairmont Hotel

The Government of Indonesia (Minister of Finance, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, and Governor of Bank Indonesia) in cooperation with the U.S. – Indonesia Society (USINDO) and the U.S. – ASEAN Business Council (USABC) hosted the Voyage to Indonesia 2018 Washington D.C. Gala Dinner on Wednesday, October 11 at the Fairmont Hotel.

'The Voyage to Indonesia (VTI) 2018' is a series of events commencing in October 2018 and advancing the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings 2018 in Bali October 2018. VTI highlights the many facets of Indonesia's culture, promote the beauty and tourism options the country offers, communicates Indonesia's current and prospective economic and social achievements, and attracts enhanced beneficial international participation in Indonesia's economic development.

At the Gala Dinner, three distinguished Indonesian ministers – Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, and Central Bank Governor Agus Martowardojo – shared their insights on Indonesia's latest economic policies affecting its growth, upgraded investment rating, and new opportunities for its development and investment potential. These include investment opportunities in such key sectors as infrastructure, IT, banking, energy, creative industries, tourism, real estate, and others. Congressman Vern Buchanan, co-chair of the Congressional Indonesia Caucus, also spoke on the bilateral relationship and the opportunities for increasing awareness of Indonesia in the US Congress through expanding the Congressional Indonesia Caucus.



USINDO President Merrill: Opening remarks

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Co-Chair of Congressional Indonesia Caucus Congressman Vern Buchanan

View the Video [here](#)



Introduction of Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan by USINDO U.S. Co-Chair Ambassador Robert O. Blake Jr.

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan

View the Video [here](#)



Introduction of Finance Minister Sri Mulyani by Richard Adkerson

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati

View the Video [here](#)



Introduction of Central Bank Governor Agus Martowardojo by Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.

View the Video [here](#)



Remarks by Central Bank Governor Agus Martowardojo

View the Video [here](#)

USINDO Special Events

Washington D.C.

Business Roundtable with His Excellency Thomas Lembong Chairman of the Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board

June 13, 2017

H.E. Thomas Lembong

Chairman of the Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board

Event Co-host: US-ASEAN Business Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

USINDO Special Open Forum: Accelerating Indonesia's Economic Development: The Vital Role of the International Private Sector

July 21, 2017

H.E. Prof. Dr. Bambang Brodjonegoro

Minister of National Development

Republic of Indonesia

USINDO-World Wildlife Fund Special Round Table Discussion Indonesia's Role in Global Climate Change Action: Engagement with International Non-State Actors

September 25, 2017

Professor Rachmat Witoelar

The President's Special Envoy for Climate Change

Event Co-Host: World Wildlife Fund

US-Indonesia Women's CEO Summit (WCEO)

October 11, 2017

Event Co-host: US-ASEAN Business Council, Asia Society, Seneca Women, US Chamber of Commerce, Bank Indonesia, AMCHAM Indonesia, WeConnect International, The Atlantic Council

USINDO's History Series: Indonesia's September 30, 1965 Movement and the Beginning of the Suharto Era: Enhancing our Understanding Drawing on Recently Released U.S. Records

November 29, 2017

Dr. Bradley Simpson

Associate Professor of History and Asian Studies, University of Connecticut.
Founder and Director,
Indonesia and East Timor Documentation Project, National Security Archive

Dr. Barbara Harvey

Retired Foreign Service Officer
and USINDO Advisor

Ambassador Robert Pringle

Historian of Southeast Asia
Retired Foreign Service Officer and
Former Ambassador to Mali



View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

Read the Open Forum Brief [here](#).

The Indonesian Security Sector's Transformation in the Democratic Transition, and Its Constructive Engagement with China and U.S

January 24, 2018

Lieutenant General TNI Agus Widjojo

Governor, National Resilience Agency
Republic of Indonesia



View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

Jakarta

The U.S. – Indonesia Bilateral Security Relationship with Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr.

August 7, 2017

Admiral Harry B. Harris
Jr. Commander of the US
Pacific Command

Event Co-host: American Chamber of
Commerce Jakarta

View the Photo Gallery [here.](#)

Watch the Open Forum [here.](#)



The First Year of the Trump Presidency: Assessment and Outlook for 2018

February 07, 2018

Mr. Steven Okun
Founder & CEO,
APAC Advisors

Mr. Aaron Connelly
Research Fellow,
Lowy Institute

View the Photo Gallery [here.](#)

Watch the Open Forum [here.](#)



Open Forum Series

USINDO's signature Open Forum Series has become the premier arena for USINDO to build public understanding of Indonesia and the United States. The discussions feature distinguished experts, academics, and policy makers, with the aim of providing timely and accurate information in the areas facing both nations, as well as to allow the public to directly interact with the speakers. This year, USINDO held 14 Open Forums in Washington D.C. and Jakarta, centered around three defined themes: (1) Politics & Security Series; (2) Economics; (3) Religion and Pluralism (4) Other Open Forums. The events held in the past year are presented below and in the preceding section.

Politics & Security Series

A large segment of USINDO's Open Forum portfolio caters to a breadth of political issues surrounding US-Indonesia relations, which has been received with enthusiasm and great interest. USINDO continues to invite experts from fields concerning politics and security to discuss their insights on current happenings and key trends as it pertains to its prospects.

Washington, D.C.

Journalism, Creative Writing, and Free Speech in Today's Indonesia: Progress and Challenges

March 23, 2018

Yuli Ismartono

Executive Director, Lontar Foundation
Former Senior Editor, Tempo

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).



Jakarta

Transparency in the Criminal Justice System: Reforming the System and Civic Engagement

April 17, 2018

Mr. Michael Kagay

District Attorney for the Third Judicial,
District of Kansas

Mr. Brian MacHarg

Director of Civic Engagement,
Appalachian State University

Mr. Choky Ramadhan

Chairman,
Indonesia Judiciary Monitoring Society (MaPPI FH UI)

Event Co-host: U.S. Embassy and @america

View the Photo Gallery [here.](#)

Watch the Open Forum [here.](#)



Economic Series

Jakarta

Maximizing the Impact of Anti-Corruption Efforts for Economic Development in the U.S. and Indonesia: The Role of Public and Private Sectors

December 15, 2017

Mr. Giri Suprapdiono

Director of Gratification,
Indonesia Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK)

Mr. Frank Brown

Anti-Corruption Team Leader,
Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

Ms. Natalia Soebagjo

Chair of the Executive Board,
Transparency International Indonesia.
USINDO Advisor



View the Photo Gallery [here.](#)

Matchmakers: The New Economics of Multisided Platforms

March 22, 2018

Richard Schmalensee

The Howard W. Johnson Professor of
Economics and Management Emeritus,
MIT Sloan School of Management

Event Co-host: GTech Digital Asia

View the Photo Gallery [here.](#)



USINDO Religion and Pluralism Series

Given the diverse historical and cultural background in U.S. and Indonesia, as well as the similarities of political, security, and cultural challenges presented to both countries. USINDO presents a new Open Forum Series on Religion and Pluralism in the U.S. and Indonesia.

Washington DC

The Interplay of Religion and Politics in Indonesia: What Does Jakarta's Gubernatorial Election Signify?

July 25, 2017

Prof. Thomas B. Pepinsky

Associate Professor of
Government and Faculty Affiliate
Southeast Asia Program,
Cornell University

Prof. Jeremy Menchik

Assistant Professor of
Fredrick S. Pardee School of
Global Studies,
Boston University



View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

Jakarta

Relations between Religious Minorities, Majorities and the State in Indonesia and the United States: Current Trends and Issues

July 31, 2017

Prof. Brett Scharffs

Director of the International Center for
Law and Religion Studies
Brigham Young University

Yenny Wahid

Indonesian Co-Chair
Indonesia-US Council on Religion and
Pluralism
Executive Director of Wahid Institute

Dr. Ferimeldi

Chairman of the Center for Religious
Harmony,
Ministry of Religious Affairs

Feby Yonesta

Chairman
SUAKA

Aminudin Syarif

Researcher
SETARA Institute



Event Co-host: Setara Institute, Wahid Institute, Council on Religion and Pluralism.

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).

Watch the Open Forum [here](#).

Others

Jakarta

The Internationalization of Indonesian Arts and Gamelan in the US and Other Countries

September 7, 2017

Jay M. Arms

Cultural Musicology
Ph. D Candidate
UC Santa Cruz, California

Dr. Julianti Parani

Lecturer
Jakarta Institute of Arts (IKJ)

Madia Patra Ismar

Doctorate Candidate
Humanities
Jakarta Institute of Arts (IKJ)



Event Co-host: Jakarta Institute of Arts (IKJ)

View the Photo Gallery [here.](#)

Watch the Open Forum [here.](#)

Watch the Academic Writing session [here.](#)

Women as Change Agents in the United States and Indonesia

January 24, 2018

Susan A. Thornton

Acting Assistant Secretary,
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific
Affairs,
U.S. Department of State

Yenny Wahid

Executive Director,
Wahid Foundation and
Indonesian Co-Chair,
Indonesia-US Council on
Religion and Pluralism

Nilam Sari,

Owner and Marketing Director,
Kebab Turki Baba Rafi and
Co-Owner,
Voila! 360' Communication Agency.

Event Co-host: U.S. Embassy and @america

View the Photo Gallery [here](#).



Facilitative Meetings

As part of its mission to enhance people-to-people connections between the U.S. and Indonesia, as well as expand mutual understanding in a variety of fields, USINDO has played a key role in facilitating meetings for Americans and Indonesians who are concerned with developing their understanding about both countries. USINDO Jakarta has been assisting individuals, organizations, and companies from the United States who have a vested interest in becoming more familiar with Indonesia's political and sociocultural landscape and connecting with relevant stakeholders in a variety of fields. USINDO Washington D.C. has also facilitated a similar learning opportunity for individuals, organizations, and companies from Indonesia who are interested in connecting with relevant stakeholders and counterparts in the United States.

*Collaborating with National Public Radio (NPR) Host, **Ari Shapiro**, in creating NPR's itinerary for their upcoming visit to Indonesia from September 24 – October 8, 2017.*

NPR is doing a series of radio programs on Indonesia that will be broadcast on NPR US, greatly helping USINDO's mission of communicating Indonesia to the U.S. public. In this venture, USINDO has shared a wide array of possible contacts, provided suggestions, and arranged meetings with key figures; this includes connecting NPR with the US Embassy Public Affairs Office in Jakarta and the US Ambassador to Indonesia, Ambassador Donovan. Issues of note include Indonesia's democracy, it being the largest Muslim-majority country, its size and importance, its economy, its religious diversity and tolerance as well as its inter-religious issues and how these issues relate to Indonesia's democracy.

*Assisting with the **John Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Global Policy Program (GPP)** final capstone project.*

The Global Policy Program (GPP) is a master's degree program designed for mid-career professionals working in international affairs. From November 13-17, 2017, two dozen of SAIS GPP graduate students will be traveling to Indonesia as a part of their final capstone project. In the context of this capstone project, the students will form partnerships with five Indonesia-based organizations and will be conducting research projects on subjects jointly determined with their local partners. This project provides in-country partners with the opportunity to research a policy question that they may not otherwise have the capacity to focus on. USINDO's role is to connect with a dozen or so organizations in Indonesia that work on issues related to international affairs and policymaking and aggregate a list of contacts to meet with. Field of work include energy/natural resources, education, identity politics, gender issues, security, and beyond.

Education Programs and Grants

Legislative Partnership Program

The Legislative Partnership Program (LPP) consists of a one-week study program with concentrated exposure to U.S. Congressional practices on committee management, the role of professional staff, and the use of support systems such as the Congressional Research Service, legislative drafting, as well as how the U.S. system engages stakeholders for inclusive policy-making. More importantly, The Indonesian parliamentary staffers also learn on policy issues related with the theme of the year including foreign affairs, finance and banking, and energy and mineral resources. In cooperation with the U.S. House Democracy Partnership (HDP), the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), and the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR), USINDO brings various speakers including U.S. Congressional Members, Staffers, as well as Representative from Private Sectors, Associations, NGOs, and Think Tanks.

The first Legislative Partnership Program was launched in 2014 and seven competitively selected Indonesian parliamentary staff members related with Foreign Affairs issue had successfully traveled to the U.S. on March 1-7, 2014. On November 13-18, 2016, USINDO successfully held its second Legislative Partnership Program with the focus on finance and banking.

USINDO is currently raising funds from new donors for the 2018 Legislative Partnership Program. As agreed with the DPR in an MOU signed earlier this year, the third program is planned to be conducted this year with focus on energy and mineral resources. The selected cohort is anticipated to bring back the relevant knowledge and skills needed to make positive contributions to Indonesia's legislative development in the Energy and Mineral Resources sector.

Photos from 2014 and 2016 Legislative Partnership Program:



Meeting with Congressional Budget Office



Dialogue with Panel of Experts from Congressional Research Service



Discussion with Representative David Price (D-NC), Ranking Minority Member, House Democracy Partnership



Workshop with Professor James A. Thurber, Director of the Center on Congressional and Presidential Studies, American University



Participants preparing for their final workshop presentations



LPP 2016 Participants

For more photos of the "Legislative Partnership Program," please click [here](#).

Edward E. Masters Fellowship Program

The Edward E. Masters Program funds the graduate level education and manages the placement of top ranked officials from the Indonesian government at leading universities in the United States. The program has placed 18 junior diplomats and one mid-career diplomat at top U.S. graduate programs in international affairs and international law.

Edward E. Masters Fellows 2018



In 2017, the Ed Masters Review Committee reviewed a total of six applicants to the prestigious Edward E. Masters Fellowship award. Among the six applicants, two conditional candidates were selected to continue to the next phase of the selection process. Due to limited funding, USINDO was not able to award the Edward E. Masters Fellowship to a second promising candidate.

The candidate who was the finalist selected this year to receive the prestigious Edward E. Masters Fellowship award is Mr. Jhendra Samodra, a junior diplomat I from Directorate of Multilateral Cooperation, Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Jhendra Samodra will be pursuing his master's degree at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in this Fall 2018.

Ministry of Law and Human Rights

USINDO plays a key role in facilitating the communications and negotiations between the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights in sending Indonesian students to do a one-year graduate law (LLM) program in the Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW) at Loyola's campus in Rome, Italy. This year, with the help of USINDO, the two institutions successfully sent the third batch of Indonesian students for the PROLAW program. The program educates students from developing countries on how to be effective rule of law advisors in both domestic and cross-border legal reform initiatives.

The two officials selected for the 2017 PROLAW program were:

1. Mr. Sopi Ahyar
2. Ms. Endang Dwi Wahyuni

Both officials have since departed to Rome to attend their studies starting in September 2017 and are expected to graduate by mid-2018.



The U.S. – Indonesia Joint Council on Higher Education Partnership

During seven years of successful Joint Council work toward the overall goal originally set by the Obama administration in 2010 of doubling the number of students in each other's country, the Joint Education Council has facilitated nearly 1,000 two-way student exchanges and helped to establish nine new university-to-university partnerships.

The Council's extensive network has continued to be beneficial to many Indonesian and American counterparts in the education sector. USINDO has continued to facilitate a variety of partnerships and meetings through this network. Recent activities include:

Facilitating meetings between University of Maryland and the Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Public Information.

USINDO helped to facilitate a meeting between the University of Maryland and the Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Public Information and new Cyber and National Encryption Agency (BSSN), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forestry regarding possible collaboration in capacity building for government officials on various issues including cyber security, digital economy, and environment. This meeting was held in July 2017 and January 2018 as part of the visit to Indonesia of Dean of the University of Maryland Public Policy School, Dr. Robert Orr and Director of Indonesia Program, Prof. Thomas Hilde.

Facilitating meetings between University of Colorado Boulder and the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP)

USINDO helped to facilitate a meeting between University of Colorado Boulder and representatives from the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP). The delegation visited in February 2018 to attend a series of EducationUSA sponsored higher education fairs and had a meeting with representatives of the LPDP scholarship program to explore more opportunities to encourage qualified Indonesians to study at Colorado, an LPDP-approved university. In addition to the new partnership that is currently being facilitated by the Council and USINDO in chemical and biological engineering between ITB and the University of Colorado.

USINDO and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)'s potential collaboration with the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP)

APLU and USINDO collaborate to support the Government of Indonesia to increase the numbers of LPDP scholars choosing the United States for their study in the priority fields identified by the Government of Indonesia. USINDO and APLU Representatives met with Hadiyanto, the Secretary General of Indonesian Ministry of Finance to brief about USINDO and APLU's efforts to aid the GOI in increasing number of Indonesian to U.S. USINDO will further assist with local liaison with LPDP and Indonesian government, and collaborate with APLU in Washington in supporting the GOI achieving its goals.

Sumitro Fellows Program

In May 2017, the two Sumitro Fellows from the 2016 group, Ms. Alysson Akiko Oakley and Mr. Faisal Karim, submitted their final Fellowship reports to USINDO. Both Fellows expressed their gratitude for the funding provided by the Sumitro Fellowship as it greatly helped them in conducting their research on U.S. – Indonesia relations.

Mr. Karim was able to use the funds provided by the fellowship to complete his research project on Indonesia as an emerging power within the US-led global order. The funds provided by the fellowship enabled him to conduct fieldwork in Indonesia, Singapore, and the US as well as attend workshops and conferences in Italy, Indonesia, and the US to sharpen the theoretical claims and empirical analysis of the research project. Furthermore, the funds also helped him to complete three research papers that he will be submitting in an international journal.

With the help of the funding from the Sumitro Fellowship, Ms. Oakley expanded her initial field research plan to include two additional trips to Indonesia, as well as two additional trips outside of Jakarta: the first to Bali to participate in the Golkar Extraordinary Congress in May 2016; and the second to Yogyakarta to interview local political party leaders and civil society leaders in July 2016. Ms. Oakley is currently working on integrating the data that she has compiled into her ongoing dissertation, with a dissertation defense date anticipated by the end of 2017. When the dissertation is completed and successfully defended, she has planned to turn the work into at least two publications: a book-length manuscript for publication, as well as an article-length publication to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Based on USINDO Board Meeting in 2017 and unavailability of funding, USINDO will not continue the Sumitro Fellows program in the future.

Summer Studies Program

The Summer Studies Program is one of USINDO's flagship programs. Through the program, we intend to introduce and encourage American students to learn more about Indonesia, its language, and its culture. Last year, 10 American students from different backgrounds and universities participated in the 2017 USINDO Summer Studies program.

The ten-weeks program in Yogyakarta consists of language classes, out-of-class tutorials with tutors, cultural workshops, field trip, volunteering, and special lectures. We offered five choices of cultural workshops, which were Javanese Gamelan, Traditional Dance, Indonesian Dishes Cooking, Batik Making and Traditional Martial Arts or Silat. Last year, the special lectures discussed local governance, democratization and efforts against radicalism, interfaith relations, and small-medium enterprise. The students also embarked on field trips to The Borobudur Temple, the Merapi Mountain, the historic quarter of Kota Gede, and the Mangunan Valley.

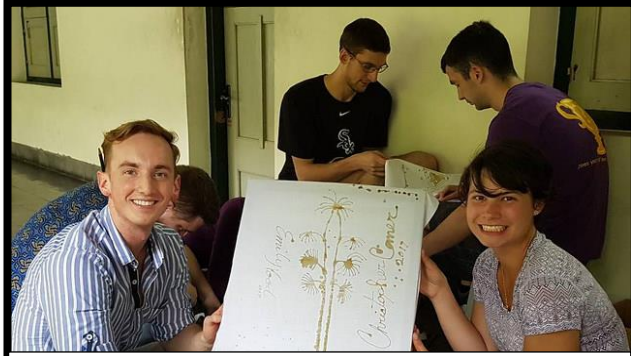
At the end of the program, USINDO organized post-program in Jakarta, where students have opportunity to meet with several prominent public figures, such as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the President; Deputy Speaker of The House, Indonesian House of Representatives; Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Jakarta; former Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chief Representative of Bower Group Asia; and Chairperson of Arus Pelangi, an NGO that advocates for the rights of LGBTQ communities in Indonesia.

For Summer Studies 2018, USINDO have selected 14 American participants who are enthusiastic in learning Indonesian language and enhancing their understanding of Indonesia. Four of them have had some proficiency in Bahasa Indonesia and will join intermediate classes during the language program in Yogyakarta. In addition to the previous year's program, the 2018 USINDO Summer Studies Program will include a new activity that is an opportunity for students to conduct an independent study about Indonesia as an alternative of volunteering program. As for field trips, the students are going to visit new spots, such as to Bukit Remam, Gedung Agung (Presidential Palace), and Kraton (Sultan's Palace). The cohort is expected to be arriving in Jakarta on May 24, 2018. The details of the fourteen incoming American participants are as follows:

1. Alaine Johnson, Yale-NUS College (Singapore), B.A. in Environmental Studies
2. Annemarie DiCamillo, University of Georgia, (Athens, Georgia), Master of Fine Art

3. Briana Blueitt, Hofstra University, (Hempstead, New York), B.A. in Honors, Political Science & Journalism
4. Carly Truong, American University, (Washington D.C.), Bachelor of Science in Biology
5. Colton Getter, Brigham Young University, (Provo, Utah), B.A. International Relations
6. Garrett Giblette, Brigham Young University, (Provo, Utah), B.S. Psychology
7. James Carty, University of Massachusetts (Boston, Massachusetts), B.A. International Relations
8. Jared Schwartz, Indiana University (Bloomington, IN), B.A. Environmental and Sustainability Studies; B.S. International Studies
9. Jonathan Donais, Harvard University Extension School (Cambridge), Master of liberal Arts (ALM) International Relations
10. Kelly O'Donnell, Chatham University, (Pittsburgh), B.S. Marketing
11. Megan Miazgowicz, Bowling Green State University, (Bowling Green, OH.), BFA Digital Arts
12. Perry Landesberg, American University (Washington D.C.), B.A. International Relations (Graduate Since 2012)
13. Samantha Ong, City College of New York, Spitzer School of Architecture (New York City), Bachelor of Architecture
14. Zachary Frial, Georgetown University, (Washington, D.C), B.A Culture and Politics

Photos from 2017 Summer Studies Program



Students created Batik patterns in cultural workshop.



Students having a group study in the library.



Students and tutors from Sanata Dharma University celebrate the 4th of July



Students and tutors during field trip to the Borobudur Temple.



Students studying Bahasa Indonesia in class.



Student Gibson Haynes with his host family.



Students met with the Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Brian McFeeters, US Embassy



Students had a discussion with Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Hassan Wirajuda



Students met with Dr. Yanuar Nugroho, Executive Office of the President.



At Kota Tua, the students got interviewed by local schoolgirls.



Students at Museum Wayang as part of their post-program visit.



Discussion with Hon. Fadli Zon, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellows Program

USINDO is proud to continue its cooperation with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and U.S. Embassy Jakarta to help facilitate the ACYPL – YSEALI Professional Fellows Program. The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) is the U.S. government's signature program to strengthen leadership development and networking in ASEAN, deepen engagement with young leaders on key regional and global challenges, and strengthen people-to-people ties between the United States and young Southeast Asian leaders. The Professional Fellows Program (PFP) focuses on legislative process and governance for young political and policy leaders.

Selected participants attend an orientation in Washington D.C. and participate in a four-week intensive fellowships in local office with day-to-day mentoring and guidance from a local leader and/or an ACYPL alumnus with the goal of strengthening their understanding of American governance, politics, and the legislative process. After the program, all participants go to Washington D.C. for a 3-day Professional Fellows Congress where they will share their experiences with other international fellows from around the world.

The 2017 Spring PFP was held from April 22 - June 3, 2017. The selected delegates were:

1. Abi Marutama
Advocate, Young Voices Indonesia/Cheshire Foundation
2. Aprisal W. Malale
Business Process Analyst, Indonesia Ministry of Finance
3. Muhammad Buharto
Program Facilitator, Sunspirit for Justice & Peace
4. Nurul Komalasari
State Auditor, Indonesia Supreme Audit Board

The 2017 Fall PFP was held from October 7 – November 17, 2017. The selected delegates were:

1. Erwin Sipahutar
Coordinator of Knowledge Governance Division, Southeast Asia Institute for Forest and People Studies

2. Anindita Listya
Anti-Corruption Specialist, The House of Representatives of The Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI)
3. Mohammad Nurdin
Executive Assistant to Mayor of Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan Province, Indonesia
4. Alexander Nainggolan
Internal Auditor, Ministry of Industry of The Republic of Indonesia
5. Michael Sianipar
Personal Assistant to the Governor, Provincial Government of Jakarta

The 2018 Spring PFP will be traveling to the United States from April 21 – June 2, 2018. The delegates were selected by a panel consisting of representatives from USINDO, ACYPL, and U.S. Embassy Jakarta. The selected fellows are:

1. Alldo Felix Januarydy
Human Rights Lawyer, Jakarta Legal Aid Institute (LBH Jakarta)
2. Hayatun Nufus
Senior Researcher, LKPPM (Center for Public Participation Development)
3. Mas Muhammad Gibran Sesunan
Associate Director for Deputy I, Executive Office of the President
4. Reza Novandri
Supervisor of General and Programme, Pariaman City Government
5. Yohan Misero
Drug Policy Analyst, LBH Masyarakat

As the in-country program partner for ACYPL in the YSEALI PFP, USINDO have also assisted visits of YSEALI American fellows to Indonesia, by conducting in-country briefing, working with the Indonesian fellows to design the program and helping to set up relevant meetings in Indonesia. We have also collaborated with the U.S. Embassy in hosting American fellows to speak at public forums in Jakarta.

The YSEALI PFP Follow-On Program 2017 American Mentors to Indonesia were:

1. Brette McSweeney
President, Eleanor's Legacy

2. Jake Agliata
Outreach Coordinator, Students for Sensible Drug Policy
3. Kaitlyn Boecker
Policy Coordinator, Drugs Policy Reform
4. Ariel Shaker Brown
Operations Officer, Partnership for Transparency Fund
5. Becky Rafter
Executive Director, Georgia Women's Action for New Directions

The YSEALI PFP Follow-On Program 2018 American Mentors to Indonesia were:

1. Mike Opat
District 1 Commissioner for the Hennepin County Government in Minneapolis
2. Mark Patoska
Manager of Local Government Research at the Civic Federation in Chicago
3. Kaletta Lynch
Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Mayor's Office of Salt Lake City, Utah
4. Michael Kagay
District Attorney for Shawnee County, Kansas

USINDO is currently in the selection process stage for the upcoming 2018 Fall PFP. We are planning to select four Indonesian fellows from 155 applicants that we received for the 2018 Fall program.

Indonesia - U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism



The Indonesia – U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism was established through a Founding and Roadmap Conference held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from August 10-11, 2016. The conference convened a select group of committed non-government leaders from the religious, academic, media, and civil society sectors from Indonesia and the United States. Government and donor representatives attended as observers or commenters. The Council is endorsed by President Obama and President Jokowi as a civil society undertaking in a sector where both countries have much to learn from each other.

The conference launched the Indonesia- U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism. Council members shared their expectations of what they expected the Council to achieve, including developing a comprehensive understanding of the current state of interfaith relations in each country.

The Council defined and adopted three priority areas for its work:

1. Increasing religious understanding, mutual respect, and collaboration;
2. Identifying and fostering positive civic and religious education models that promote analytical thinking and respect; and
3. Empowering civil society to deter violent extremism.

To develop actionable programs, it established three Working Groups to lead Council work on each of the priority areas, and appointed Indonesian and US-Co-chairs and members for each Group. Each Working Group explored a range of possible programs

and activities, and selected three to four actionable program ideas for the Council to carry out, after program refinement by the Working Groups. These programs ranged from conducting seminars and outreach programs aimed at increasing religious understanding, developing interreligious homestay experiences for teachers and youth, and issuing calls for evidence-based research on the factors in deterring violent extremism that need to be better understood before programs with a justifiable prospect for success can be launched.

Since its establishment in August 2016, the Council with the assistance of USINDO, has conducted extensive research in identifying potential donors to fund the programs of the Council's three Working Groups. From this research, the Council made funding proposals to two potential donors: U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Carpenter Foundation. The Council is working on how to address funding issues in 2018.

In addition to developing long-term project to be considered by prospective donors, the Council assisted several meetings below:

Discussion Meeting with Ministry of Political, Legal and Security Affairs – July 31, 2017

On July 31, 2017, the Council facilitated a meeting between Prof. Brett Scharffs, Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies and Professor of Law at Brigham Young University, and Amb. Lutfi Rauf from the Coordinating Ministry of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs. Prof. Scharffs, accompanied by Ibu Yenny Wahid as Indonesian Co-Chair of the CRP, was able to have an open discussion and exchange notes with Amb. Lutfi Rauf on several recent issues concerning religion and the law in Indonesia. Through the meeting, Prof. Scharffs was able to share his insight on the matter from an American perspective and discuss with Amb. Rauf his opinions of how the law affects civil society, political affairs, and the freedom of association and expression in both countries.

Open Forum on Relations between Religious Majorities, Minorities, and the State in US and Indonesia – July 31, 2017

In cooperation with USINDO, SETARA Institute, and Wahid Foundation, the Council co-hosted a Special Open Forum on the "Relations between Religious Majorities, Minorities, and the State in US and Indonesia: Current Trends & Issues". The discussion focused on the dynamics between religious majorities, minorities, and the government as well as the factors contributing to the growth of radicalism in both the US and Indonesia. Recommendations were also made towards the eradication of hate

speech and the proliferation of tolerant perspectives.

Meeting with International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Delegation in Washington D.C. – September 13, 2017

The Council has sparked interest not only in Jakarta, but also in Washington D.C., where it hosted a meeting with a delegation of 10 Islamic school teachers and administrators from Indonesia visiting the U.S. under the U.S. State Department's IVLP program. This particular IVLP project, which carried the theme of Faith Based Education, sought to introduce educators, administrators, and policymakers involved in Indonesia's Islamic education system to religious education and life in America. The delegation met with USINDO President, Amb. David Merrill on September 13, 2017 and had an engaging discussion on issues of religion and pluralism, as well as the Council's work in religious education. The delegation also continued on to visit Al-Fatih Islamic School, one of the most innovative U.S. models of Islamic religious education in the US, based on Amb. Merrill's recommendations.

Discussion Meeting with Imam Mohammad Bashir Arafat during his visit to Indonesia - January 4, 2018

On January, USINDO facilitated a meeting between Imam Mohamad Bashir Arafat, President of Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland and Founder of Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation, and Yenny Wahid, Indonesian Co-Chair for the Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion and Pluralism (CRP), as well as the Executive Director of Wahid Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to have an exchange of views and experience between the US and Indonesia on topic areas related to approaches to interfaith understanding, approaches to religious education, and approaches to countering violent extremism, and other topics shedding light on religion and pluralism in the two countries.

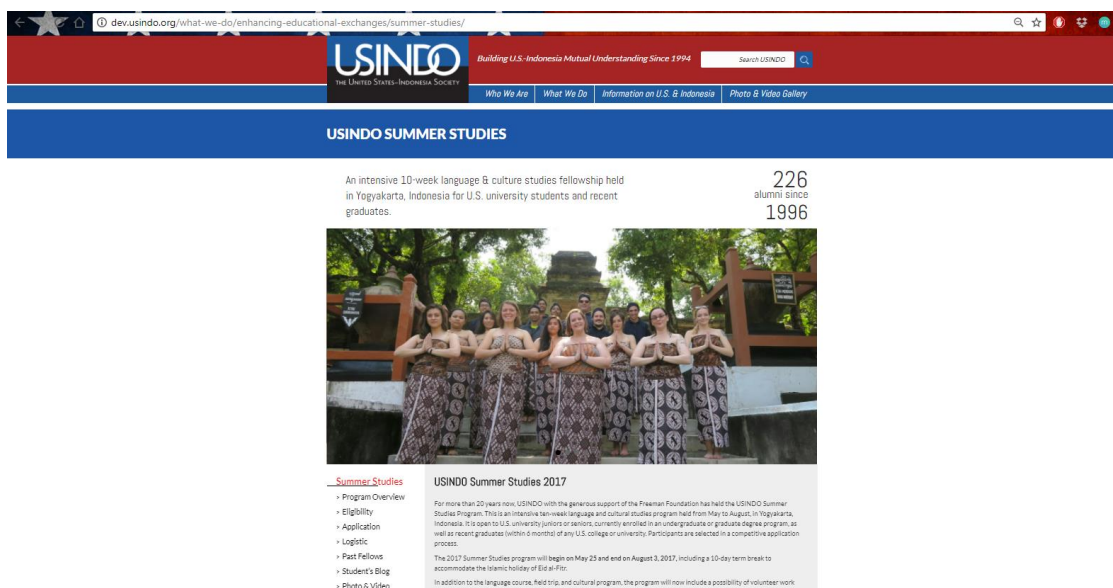
USINDO Website Redesign

As part of USINDO's efforts to enhance its online presence, USINDO has redesigned and launched its website to a more professional, user-friendly and mobile-friendly site that are easily accessible to audiences from both countries and around the world. Below are some snapshots of the website developed. This website is accessible at www.usindo.org.

Homepage:



Summer Studies Page:



Indonesia – U.S. Council on Religion & Pluralism Page:

The screenshot shows the USINDO website with a red header and a blue navigation bar. The main content area is titled "INDONESIA-U.S. COUNCIL ON RELIGION & PLURALISM". Below the title, there is a paragraph describing the council as an independent, bi-national, non-governmental body established in August 2016, endorsed by President Jokowi and President Obama. A large group photo of the council members is displayed. To the left of the photo, there is a sidebar with a "Council on Religion and Pluralism" section containing links to "Our Objectives", "Our Structure", "Co-Chairs", "Senior Advisory Board", "Executive Board", and "Panel of Experts". To the right of the photo, there is a section titled "Indonesia-U.S. Council on Religion & Pluralism" with a brief description of the council's mission and a list of its members.

USINDO Galas Page:

The screenshot shows the USINDO website with a red header and a blue navigation bar. The main content area is titled "USINDO GALA". Below the title, there is a section titled "What We Do" with a link to "Increasing Understanding of Indonesia and the United States". To the left of this section, there is a sidebar with a "SUPPORT USINDO" section containing a "GET INVOLVED!" button and a "JOIN OUR MAILING LIST" button. To the right of the "What We Do" section, there is a section titled "What is USINDO Gala?" with a brief description of the gala and a list of past speakers. Below this section, there is a "Past Galas" section with a grid of images showing past speakers and their names: "2017 Washington D.C. Gala Dinner, featuring R.E. Sri Mulyo", "2018 Washington D.C. Gala Dinner, featuring R.E. Jusuf Kalla", "HIS EXCELLENCY JOKO WIDODO Indonesian President of Indonesia", "2019 Washington D.C. Gala Dinner, featuring R.E. Prabowo Subianto", "2016 Washington D.C. Gala Dinner, featuring R.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono", and "2015 Washington D.C. Gala Dinner, featuring R.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono".

-- End of President's Report --

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